Decline in Wheat Export

931. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat export is not increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Study on problems faced by fruit growers

†932. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of allowing import of apple and other fruits under the Open General Licence, the fruit growers of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir are being adversely affected;

(b) if so, whether a survey or a study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to assess the adverse effect; and

(c) the facilities being provided to them for increasing this exports of apple and other fruits by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Representations have been received from some fruit growers including the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir regarding the likely adverse impact of imports on

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

domestic fruit producers. Import restrictions on all the items including fresh fruits are being removed since 1991 in line with the economic liberalization policy and also in accordance with the country's commitment to Multilateral trading regime.

However, the Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to domestic producers. Towards that end, import duty on apple has already been increased from 35% to 50%. In addition, all primary agricultural products including fruits have also been made subject to a sanitary import permit to be issued by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

The Government has been implementing several assistance schemes and has taken various steps to boost production and export of horticultural products including apples and other fruits. These include:-

(i) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;

(ii) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fruits.

(iii) Arranging promotional compaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(iv) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

(v) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.

(vi) Research efforts towards adoption of technologies for increasing the shelf life of fruits and vegetables such as Compressed/Modified Atmosphere containers for sea transport, establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities, etc. Kinnaur apple from Himachal Pradesh has been identified as one of the potential varieties for exports. Himachal Pradesh Marketing Corporation (HPMC) had undertaken trial shipment of Kinnaur apple through reefer container to United Kingdom.

(vii) Provision of assistance for using international standard packaging material specified through the Indian Institute of Packaging(IIP). Under this scheme assistance is given to exporters for use of packaging material specified and adopted by IIP/Agricultural Product Export Development Authority (APEDA).

New industries in Himachal Pradesh

933. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified certain industries to develop them on the lines of special concept of industrial developments in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether certain industries which do not cause air and water pollution are to be identified and reserved for Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir States;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the Industrial Policy of Government, zoning and land use regulations and environmental legislations continue to regulate location of industrial projects. Subject to the locational policy applicable to cities with a population of more than one million